

Call for Proposals under Rural Biotechnology (Biotech-based Programmes for Societal Development)

About the Scheme:

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal, has a scheme on “Biotech-based Programmes for Societal Development”, which is being implemented throughout the State to benefit SC, ST, women and rural people. Through this scheme, demonstration and training programmes are being conducted in various income and employment generating activities and proven and field-tested technologies are being demonstrated to help the target populace in their skills development, employment and income generation etc.

Supporting Areas:

The projects are being supported in the areas viz. biofertilizers, biopesticides, sericulture, aquaculture, mushroom cultivation, spirulina production, organic farming, vermicomposting, floriculture, animal husbandry, cultivation of medicinal and other economically important plants, bio-waste utilization and solid waste management, marine bio-resources utilization (cultivation of seaweeds and cultivation of aquatic organisms etc.), value added products, products from forest produce, etc.

Who can apply?

The projects are being supported at universities, farmers’ co-operatives, voluntary and non-government organizations with proven track record etc. The eligible agencies can submit 3 copies of the proposal in the prescribed format (which can be downloaded from the www.biotechbengal.gov.in) to the **Principal Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of West Bengal, 4, Camac Street, 2nd Floor, Kolkata 700016. (email: wbbiotech@gmail.com)**

Essential Requirements:

1. Expertise with the organization:

- The organization and PI should have essential qualifications and experience in the discipline of the proposed area. They should have implemented at least few field-based extension oriented projects benefiting target population. This should be indicated as an evidence of expertise available in the proposal.
- At least one co-investigator of the similar background is required to be included in the proposal.
- In case, the organization wishes to engage the expertise from the government organization/national labs/institute for the overall project duration, written consents from the competent authority of

the organization/lab/institute is required to be obtained before submitting the proposal.

- Retired professionals can be engaged in the project as per the norms of the organization, provided they are actively engaged with them in the field-implementation nature of projects and would not be allowed to be associated as and when required for the activity implementation.
- Detailed self signed bio-data of the investigators (not more than two pages) are essential.
- Necessary forwarding by the organization is mandatory.

2. Other requirements in case of non-government organizations:

- i. Registration Certificate of the society/association
- ii. MoA including By-laws and mandate of the organization
- iii. Audited statement of accounts for the last three years (the organization should have a minimum balance of Rs. 5 lakhs at the end of last three subsequent financial years)
- iv. Annual Report including activity profile for last three years

Note: Single attested copy of all these documents are required to be submitted with the original copy of the proposal. Other copies of the proposal may not include these documents.

Addresses should be written in a legible manner and as far as possible, detailed communication addresses including phone/cellphone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses etc. should be provided.

Programme Details:

- The proposal should be specifically aimed on field demonstration/extension oriented activities for the welfare of society (SC/ST population, weaker sections, rural population, women and youths) using biotechnological processes/techniques. If required, a very little R&D component can be included for standardization of techniques already developed (4-6 months).
- The objectives of the proposal should be well focused and compact. The objectives are required to be provided list-wise (maximum 4/5 pages) and should indicate about number of awareness, training and demonstration programmes, number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (in terms of individuals, families, villages, blocks and districts etc), names of crops/species and types of interventions proposed.
- The methodology, organization of work elements and time schedule of activities giving milestones should be very clear.

- The targets and milestones should be laid on a quarterly basis and they should be quantifiable.
- The list of beneficiaries should be provided both in terms of number of persons and number of families. As far as possible, list should be provided with their authentication (signature/thumb impression) and addresses.
- Marketing linkages with documentary evidence and buyback arrangements should be clearly specified in the project with necessary evidences. If organization is opting for buy-back, it may clearly be indicated that how the organization will be disposing the material in the market.

Infrastructure requirement:

- Organizations seeking this kind of funding support for conducting training and demonstration activities are required to have essential infrastructure viz. building, training hall, demonstration farms, essential equipments for analytical and training work, projection facility, vehicle and other transportation facility and computational facilities etc.
- Necessary evidences of linkages with the other user agencies are required to be provided for buy-back arrangements.

Selection of the Beneficiaries for training/demonstration:

- The implementing agency should target the villages in the vicinity (which should not be concentrated at the organization's office/headquarter), in which the real need of interventions are required for the benefit of the target population. Based upon the nature of activity for training, the beneficiaries are required to be identified, who are willing to share their assets and labour and contribute some of their earnings in the activities.
- In case of agro-cropping, details are required on new crops to be cultivated, area to be covered under each activity, number of beneficiaries to be trained, acreage covered by each beneficiary, buy-back arrangements and linkages with other user agencies including banking support etc.
- Details are required to be provided in a tabular form about number of training programmes year-wise, their duration and number of trainees to be trained – activity-wise as part of project summary.
- Under demonstration activity, name of the crop(s) to be raised, methodology for adopting novel approach in cultivation using organic farming, number of demonstrations to be conducted year-wise, beneficiaries to be trained and list of villages to be covered etc. are essentially required.
- Self-help group (SHG) approach is required to be build up in the implementation schedule. It may help other categories of beneficiaries, who does not have their own land and they can be trained in various other professions like marketing, product making and its launching.

Expected outcomes and deliverables:

- The project should clearly bring out the benefits to the target populace through technology transfer using locally available resources.
- Attention should be paid on income and employment generation in addition to their present occupation. Change is their lifestyle in terms of monetary gain, generation of employment in rural areas and nutritional as well as livelihood security should be the main aims of the project.
- The project should create avenues for the target populace to stay back in their areas and stop migrating to the cities.
- The activity undertaken should be employment/revenue generating and not job displacing.
- It should also pertain to the judicious utilization of bio-resources in the implementation area through the involvement of target population in farm activities. It should not lead to environmental degradation or ecological imbalance. Assessment in this regard must be submitted along with the project proposal.
- During the project duration, implementing agency should encourage formation of cooperative society of the beneficiaries to continue the activity in a sustainable manner. After termination of Govt. support, assets generated are required to be transferred to the cooperative so formed.

Funding support likely to be provided:

- In view of extension-oriented programme, sophisticated and costly equipment would not be provided. Marginal support would be provided for creating small infrastructure/equipment, if it is absolutely essential.
- Recurring grant will be limited for engaging project staff (excluding project investigators), consumables and training materials, travel and contingencies etc.